

THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

FLORIDA MESSENGERS
GET SPANISH SERMON

BRANDON, Fla. (BP) — For the first time, the convention sermon at the annual meeting of the Florida Baptist Convention was preached in Spanish with simultaneous English translation. Carlos Tellez, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Coral Park in Miami, preached a sermon encouraging Florida Baptists to place their eyes on eternity and focus on sharing the Gospel with as many people as possible. Emanuel Roque, the convention's Hispanic church catalyst, translated for Tellez.

PAIR URGE ACTION FOR
IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

WASHINGTON (BP) — Two Southern Baptist leaders are urging Congress to act soon to provide a long-term remedy for 800,000 undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children. Walter Strickland, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and associate vice president of Kingdom diversity initiatives at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and Travis Wussow, vice president for public policy and general counsel at the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, in a Nov. 29 telephone news conference called for a legislative solution as the deadline nears for action on the Obama-era program.

CHRISTIANS STAND FIRM
ON GENDER VIEWPOINTS

NASHVILLE (BP) — Christians are just as likely to say that gender is determined solely at birth as are atheists and agnostics to say the opposite, according to newly released Pew Research Center findings. Sixty-three percent of Christians said gender is determined at birth, while 62% of atheists/agnostics and the religiously unaffiliated said individual gender can change. About 80% of Republicans said gender is limited to the biological designation at birth, compared to only 34% of Democrats. Pew described the poll, conducted online Aug. 8-21 and Sept. 14-26 among 4,573 people, as nonpartisan.

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Editor

Mississippi Baptist young people will close out an eventful year with the 2017 Youth Evangelism Challenge (YEC) on Dec. 27-28 in A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton.

"The line-up of speakers and presenters this year is simply outstanding," said Don Lum, director of evangelism at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and coordinator of the long-running annual event.

Keynote speaker is Ronnie Hill of Ft. Worth, Texas. "Ronnie has spoken at Mississippi Baptist Youth Night. He knows how to, and has a passion for, reaching students with a clear presentation of the Gospel," Lum said.

Mississippi native son Josh Brister will lead worship. "Josh Brister has performed previously at YEC, and was so accepted and appreciated by the participants that we invited him back for this year's YEC," Lum said. "We are blessed to have him with us again this year."

Illusionist and hypnotist Kyle Jarrard will perform at YEC. "Kyle and his show are immediately attractive to teens. He gets their attention and keeps it, leading into the Gospel message that will be presented at YEC," Lum said.

Home-grown evangelist Gary Permenter of Columbus will lead the adult sessions. "Gary is known across our state as a great program planner and presenter with a heart for ministry at all levels. Adult participants are going to learn a lot from Gary," Lum said.

Pre-registrations can be made at tinyurl.com/2017YEC. Pre-registration cost is \$10 per person. Individuals and church groups can also register at the door at a cost of \$15 per person. Doors open for registration at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 27.

For more information, e-mail lburriss@mbcb.org. Telephone: (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278.

Youth Evangelism Challenge is supported in part by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Dunbar tapped to lead IMB trustees

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Mississippi Baptist Rick Dunbar is the new chairman of the board of trustees for the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board (IMB) in Richmond, Va., replacing Hance Dilbeck who has been nominated



DUNBAR

as the next executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Dunbar is a member of First Church, Madison, and an emergency medicine physician. He has served as an IMB trustee since 2009 and was reelected as first vice president of the trustee board

during the trustees' June 2017 meeting in Phoenix.

Dilbeck, senior pastor of Quail Springs Church in Oklahoma City, resigned as an IMB trustee in advance of a Dec. 11 vote by board members of the Oklahoma convention. If elected, Dilbeck would take office Jan. 15, succeeding Anthony Jordan, who is retiring after nearly 22 years of Oklahoma Baptist leadership.

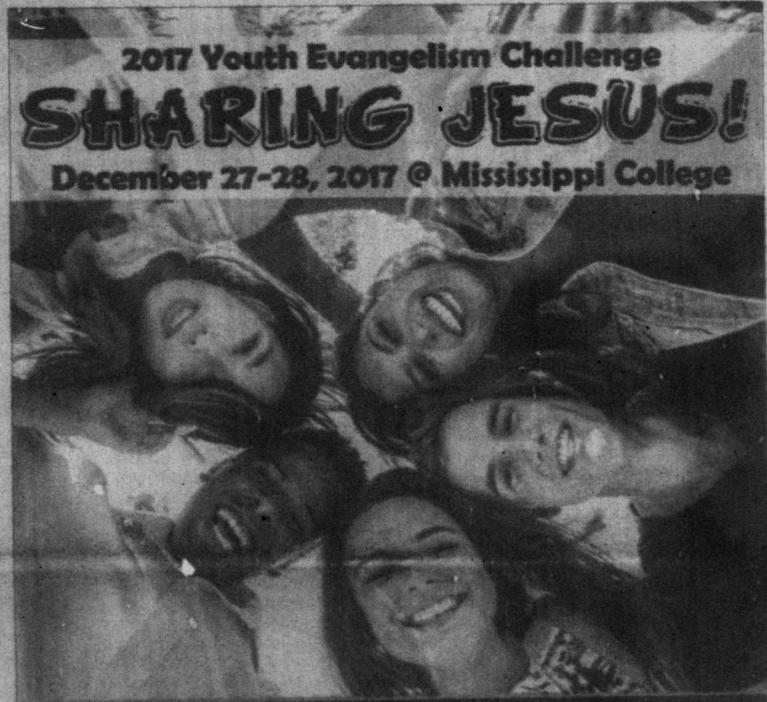
Dunbar thanked Dilbeck "for his godly leadership" and said he is "humbled to follow his leadership and, together with the other trustees, wish him the best." Dunbar asked Southern Baptists to pray "that God will be glorified" as he leads IMB trustees.

IMB President David Platt said, "By God's grace, Hance Dilbeck has led our trustees well, and I am completely confident in God's grace in Rick Dunbar to continue the same. I am deeply thankful for a trustee board and trustee leaders who love God, who love the nations, and who love missionaries who are spreading the glory of God among those nations."

Dilbeck, in a letter to the trustees regarding his resignation Nov. 27, said that while he was aware of the possibility he might be asked to lead the Oklahoma convention, "the search committee surprised me with how rapidly the process gressed. Thus, a transition that

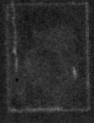
see DUNBAR on p. 7

2017 Youth Evangelism Challenge
SHARING JESUS!
December 27-28, 2017 @ Mississippi College





Ronnie Hill
Speaker



Gary Permenter
Adult Session Leader



Josh Brister
Worship Leader



Kyle Jarrard
Illusionist

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Missing in action?

In Mississippi Baptist churches all across the state, happy voices are once again filling the hallways as our children make their way to a new year of Royal Ambassadors (RA). As the boys settle in for their weekly sessions eager to know how to grow into real men who love the Lord and His Kingdom work, they thrill to the action stories of missionary adventures — especially when the heroes of these real-life stories are boys their age.

They soak up every word of presentations by missionaries who visit their classrooms. They crave the tactile exhilaration of handling everything the missionaries bring with them. They listen raptly as the missionaries talk of ancient cultures, unusual traditions, and unique foods in the mission fields where they serve. The boys become completely swept away in the moment.

Even at their tender age, they are beginning to grasp how important it is to be personally involved in making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. As boys are apt to do, they eagerly await manhood. These same boys look to the church for answers as to how missions will fit into their lives in the years to come.

In RAs, the foundation is laid for a new generation of male Christian leadership. Seeds of thought and action are planted that will fully bloom only in the decades to come. The boys earnestly seek to understand what will be expected of them when they are men, in the context of a church program that is perfectly designed to teach them to do just that.

Many of these boys are taught the lifelong traits of Christian manhood by... women.

That's no slam against the women of the church who have stepped up to the plate — and gone outside of their normal areas of responsibility — to pick up the slack where the men of the church have so clearly failed. Surely God will bless these women for doing so.

There's simply no way to paint a pretty picture of the

scandal of male leadership missing in action in our churches when it comes to missions education. In too many churches, men have declined to assume the mantle of leadership for raising our boys with a tradition of missions education.

There are the old, tired excuses for dodging church duty, dusted off for fresh use. Gotta work late, pastor. That's my tee time. Back trouble. Gout. Bad kidneys. Chronic headaches. Bad nerves. Deer season. Boring material. Not a good speaker. Not educated. Dog ate my homework.

What's your excuse? If the men of the church don't get involved with these impressionable young boys who are so eager to know more about their faith, how can we expect these men-in-waiting to grow into responsible church leaders of the future?

From whence will come our missionaries and missions leaders of the next generation, if we fail this crucial task? When we call out in our old age for someone to whom we can pass our mantle, what if no one answers?

The late Harry Chapin composed a song entitled, Cat's in the Cradle. It is about a man who doesn't realize until it is too late that his son has grown up never knowing his busy, distracted father. As the instructive tune nears its end, the now-elderly father comes to understand an important truth after a short, hurried telephone conversation with his adult son:

As I hung up the phone it occurred to me/My boy was just like me/He'd grown up just like me.

The symbolic cat may indeed be in the cradle in many of our churches, where it really counts: male leadership in missions education. It will be tragic indeed if a generation of boys grows up to be like us — full of excuses, busy with unimportant things, distracted, and lacking priorities for what really matters in the life of the church.

Will that be your legacy?

Better Together

Why do we choose to cooperate as a part of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)? Here are a few reasons why we think we are better together:

■ **Shared theological commitment.** Local churches and church plants who cooperate with the SBC agree with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Depending on who you ask, you may hear that this document is quite broad or that it is too narrow. However, I believe the Baptist Faith and Message provides a sound theological text under which there can be significant theological differences alongside the confidence that you are cooperating with truly like-minded churches around the country.

■ **Centered in local autonomous churches.** The SBC is designed to be led not from the top, but from the bottom by local churches. These local churches, which are autonomous, make the decisions that lead, rather than the decisions being made by a small group of people at the top. Every entity ultimately is accountable to local churches.

■ **Missionary vision and entities.** I didn't grow up in a Southern Baptist church and had little interaction with them until college. The missionary vision and commitment is what initially attracted me to join a Southern Baptist church and it is one of the key elements that has kept me in the convention.

From this missionary vision, the SBC has developed two excellent mission entities: the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the International Mission Board (IMB). Of course, no entity is perfect but I am more encouraged than ever about the work currently being done through these two organizations.

We are excited as a church to cooperate directly with both NAMB church planters and IMB missionaries. Through our giving, we also have the chance to cooperate on a regional level by supporting the work of the Baptist Convention of New England that helps to impact our own area.

■ **Opportunity to join the work no matter your congregation's size.** Through the Cooperative Program, any size church can join in financially supporting missions in North America and



Guest opinion
with Curtis Cook

around the world. Initially, it can be challenging for a small church plant to engage in giving to Great Commission work and to find a conduit for that giving. The Cooperative Program in the SBC serves as a great tool for this.

■ **Infrastructure to help equip and carry out the mission.** In order to train up and send out people to join in Gospel work around the world, infrastructure is necessary. In any organization, it is a temptation for infrastructure to grow to an unhealthy level and this has been true at times in the SBC. However, we currently have solid infrastructure such as the six SBC seminaries that do an excellent job of training future pastors and planters, as well as entities like the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, LifeWay Christian Resources, and GuideStone Financial Resources that serve churches in a wide variety of ways.

Like any family, the SBC is certainly not perfect. I get frustrated at times, and there are changes I'd like to see. However, I believe the SBC is an excellent channel for our local church to cooperate with as we seek to do Gospel work in our region and join in Great Commission work around the world. I'm thankful for the good work that is happening and I look forward to what may be accomplished in the future as we cooperate together.

Cook is senior pastor of Hope Fellowship Church in Cambridge, Mass., and the Cooperative Program catalyst for the Northeast region. This column first appeared at the talkCP website of the SBC Executive Committee, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.

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BAPTISTS

Support for Israel waning among younger evangelicals

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Special) — Older American evangelicals love Israel but many younger evangelicals simply don't care, according to a new survey from Nashville-based LifeWay Research, an evangelical research division of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches.

Seventy-seven percent of evangelicals ages 65 and older say they support the existence, security, and prosperity of Israel. That figure drops to 58% among younger evangelicals ages 18 to 34.

Four in 10 younger evangelicals have no strong views about Israel. Fewer younger evangelicals (58%) have an overall positive perception of Israel than older evangelicals (76%). The younger set is also less sure Israel's rebirth in 1948 was a good thing.

"For the most part, younger evangelicals are indifferent about Israel," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

LifeWay Research asked 2,002 Americans with evangelical beliefs about a wide range of issues involving Israel, from its place in the Bible to its treatment of Palestinians. The survey focused on Americans with evangelical beliefs rather than self-identified evangelicals.

Overall, that group is supportive of Israel. Sixty-seven percent have a positive view of Israel. Nine percent have a negative view. Twenty-four percent are not sure.

One-fourth support the existence, security, and prosperity of Israel, no matter what Israel does. Forty-two percent support Israel, but not everything Israel does. One percent do not support Israel. Thirty-two percent have no strong views about Israel.

Few (14%) agree when asked whether Israel's rebirth was an injustice to Arabs in the Middle East. Fifty percent disagree. Thirty-six percent are not sure.

Twenty-two percent say modern Israel has been unfair to Palestinians. Forty-one percent disagree. Thirty-seven percent are not sure.

Younger evangelicals (19%) are more likely to see the rebirth of Israel as an injustice. Only 34% disagree. Forty-seven percent are not sure. Among older evangelicals, nine percent see the rebirth of Israel as an injustice, while 62% disagree. Twenty-eight percent are not certain.

Older evangelicals (49%) are more likely to disagree that Israel has been unfair to Palestinians. Young evangelicals (32%) are less likely to disagree with that statement.

Mitch Glaser, president of Chosen People Ministries, which helped underwrite the survey, said he was glad to see that most

Among Americans with evangelical beliefs:

What statement best represents your personal views on Israel?

I support the existence, security, and prosperity of the State of Israel no matter what Israel does.

24%

I support the existence, security, and prosperity of the State of Israel but don't feel the need to support everything Israel does.

42%

I do not support the existence, security, and prosperity of the State of Israel.

1%

I have no strong views about the State of Israel.

32%

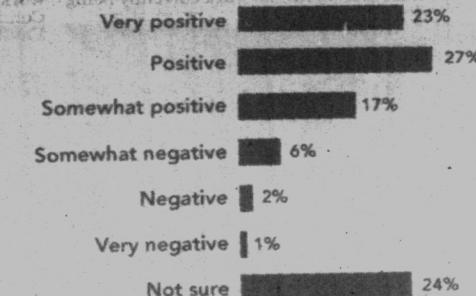
Note: Does not equal 100% due to rounding.

LifeWay

LifeWayResearch.com

Among Americans with evangelical beliefs:

Overall, what is your perception of the country of Israel today?



LifeWay

LifeWayResearch.com

evangelicals support Israel. Still, he found the decline of support among younger evangelical believers worrisome.

"I am concerned for the obvious decline in support for Israel among millennial followers of Jesus, who either do not know what they believe or do not seem to care," he said.

Darrell L. Bock, a board member for Chosen People Ministries and director of cultural engagement at Dallas Theological Seminary, wonders if Israel is on the back burner for many younger evangelicals.

When they think about the Middle East, they're more likely to think about Iraq or Iran or the impact of terrorism in the world,

he said. "The terror attacks on 9/11 changed the Middle East equation, and young people just aren't sure where Israel is supposed to fit."

Most evangelical believers in the LifeWay Research survey say faith shapes their views on Israel. Three-quarters say Christians should support the right of the Jewish people to live in the sovereign State of Israel. Five percent disagree. Twenty percent are not sure.

Sixty-nine percent say the Jewish people have a historic right to the land of Israel. Six percent disagree. Twenty-five percent are not sure. Only 19% say Palestinians have a historic right to Israel. Forty-six percent

disagree. Thirty-four percent are not sure.

Forty-one percent say Jewish people have a "biblical right" to Israel but have to share it. Twenty-eight percent disagree. Thirty-one percent are not sure.

African-Americans with evangelical beliefs are least likely (54%) to say Jewish people have a "biblical right" to the land of Israel. They are also least likely (50%) to have a positive view of Israel.

Among other findings:

■ Forty-five percent say the Bible has had the biggest influence on their views of Israel.

■ Sixty-three percent say they support Israel primarily because "God gave the land of Israel to the Jewish people."

■ Twenty-two percent are not sure if biblical promises about the land of Israel are still in force.

■ Eighty percent say God promised the land of Israel to Abraham and his descendants for all time.

■ Eighty percent say the rebirth of Israel in 1948 was a fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

Author Joel C. Rosenberg, who also helped underwrite the survey, said most evangelicals see a connection between the Bible and the modern nation of Israel but he said he's worried that's not the case for younger evangelicals, which could cause evangelical support for Israel to drop in the future.

Unless the church gives younger believers a healthy, balanced, solidly biblical understanding of God's love and plan for Israel, overall evangelicals

cal support for the Jewish state could very well plummet over the next decade as millennials represent an ever-larger percentage of the overall church body, Rosenberg said.

Evangelical believers are uncertain how to resolve differences between Israelis and Palestinians. Twenty-three percent say Israel should sign a treaty allowing Palestinians to have a sovereign state in the West Bank and Gaza. Thirty-one percent disagree. Forty-six percent are unsure.

Six in 10 say Christians should do more to love and care for Palestinians. Sixteen percent disagree. Twenty-five percent are not sure.

Among younger evangelicals, two-thirds say Christians need to do more to care for Palestinians. That drops to 54% among those 65 and older.

Most evangelical believers (73%) agree they are concerned for the safety of Christians in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Five percent disagree. Twenty-two percent are not certain.

Evangelicals are certain God wants the State of Israel to exist, said McConnell, but they think Christian love should include Palestinian people. "They believe God wants Israel to be there, but they also think God cares how the nation of Israel acts."

For more information, visit LifeWayResearch.com or view the complete survey report PDF.

LifeWay Research conducted the study Sept. 20-28, 2017. The study was sponsored by Chosen People Ministries and author Joel C. Rosenberg. The survey was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population.

Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. People in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate but do not already have internet access, GfK provides at no cost a laptop and ISP connection.

Sample stratification and weights were used for gender by age, ethnicity, region, education, and household income to reflect the most recent U.S. Census data. The completed sample is 2,002 surveys. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 2.7%. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Respondents were screened to include only adults with evangelical beliefs. Evangelical beliefs are defined using the NAF LifeWay Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs.

The seasons are in the process of changing, and I was walking beneath a beautiful maple tree whose leaves were making a beautiful gold and red panorama. With some rain and wind, most of the leaves will be falling to the ground. On this day as I walked along, I noticed a leaf that must have been forty or fifty feet high beginning to drift toward the ground. It was a beautiful golden leaf and the slight breeze was picking it up and making it appear to be dancing on the way to the ground.

Back and forth, with an occasional uplift, the leaf had even more time to reach the ground. It was a solo artist dancing its last encore. I watched it as it finished the presentation. As it hit the ground and I moved on, I thought about the fact that it had only been a few months ago that this tree was covered with a light green, lime green color and each of its limbs had those little sprouts that would within weeks become leaves that would be beautiful and provide shade and cooling during the summer.

That's only a memory now, and those beautiful leaves are coming to the end of their full, productive lives. With winter ahead, the tree has begun the process of shutting down in preparation for the cold and bitter days it may face. Sometimes it looks like leaves by the hundreds -- if not thousands -- would be flying through the air, but on this day it was a solo act and the end of this leaf's journey.

It was the picture of the life cycle. We often lose sight of the fact that death is a natural part of life. In the life cycle for



Directions
With Jim Fetral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

There Is Beauty in Dying

each human being, there is a beginning and then come all the challenges and opportunities that he/she will face. A child begins to learn to crawl and walk and learn and live and interact and succeed and fail and get up again only to come to the fall season of life, and then the conclusion.

The truth is that for the leaves on the tree, the most beautiful part of life is its conclusion. It is a fact that it can be that way with us, too. Most of us view death as the exit door of life, but the Bible portrays it as the entrance door into the very presence of our Lord. The psalmist says it this way in Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." What a precious thing to think how precious we are to God. Even in the moment of death, He counts it as special, unique,

and wonderful as He welcomes us from this world to His eternal home.

In the closing chapters of the Bible in Revelation 14:13, John writes, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." For those who know the Lord, the end of this life is not tragedy but triumph. It can be a beautiful conclusion of the presentation of life. You can see it in a number of settings in the Bible where one of God's saints comes to the entrance door.

One of those occasions is found in the book of Acts. We generally refer to Stephan as the first Christian martyr. Don't lose sight of the fact that in those moments, those concluding moments of life at death,

the Lord Himself stood as though to welcome Stephen home. Stephen concludes his life by asking the Lord to not hold the sins of the people who were killing him against them. With grace and forgiveness, this precious saint marks his last step from this world to the world to come.

I think about the Apostle Paul in a jail cell awaiting his own execution. He seems to bubble with joy and anticipation of being with the Lord. He had run his race, finished his course, and now he was ready to be with the Lord. Christians can live that way and experience that joy. No greater picture is even given us except that of our Lord hung on the cross for our sins. For six hours He died in pain and agony, and He looked forward to being back with the Father. Among His parting words were these, "Into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46), and soon life ended and joy began.

Faithful to the end, full of peace and joy forever, all around us the leaves have been changing, and whether we notice it or not, all around us life is changing. We need not live in dread and gloom and doom, for our future is bright. Jesus wanted us to know we will be with Him forever, and in the presence of our Lord and His people we will enjoy heaven forever. Maybe you are in the last days of life and you may be finishing up your song, your dance, your contribution, but it does not end in vain but victory! You can in faith and joy conclude life with a golden glow.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Spurgeon Study Bible released by LifeWay subsidiary

NASHVILLE (BP) — Readers of the just-released Spurgeon Study Bible will glean relevant truths from Spurgeon's notes even though the notes were penned long ago, according to Alistair Begg, general editor of the project and senior pastor of Parkside Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

"Charles Spurgeon was tackling issues in his day, not because he was pugnacious, but because he wanted to hold firmly to the truth delivered to the saints. He wanted to be in the line of Timothy, when Paul said, 'I want you to continue in the things you've become convinced of.'

"He was prepared to stand firmly for doctrine," said Begg, who also heads the Bible-teaching ministry Truth for Life.

Holman Bible Publishers, a division of Southern Baptists' LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, released the special study Bible which features sermon outlines and notes from revered 19th-century theologian, preacher, and writer.

The Spurgeon Study Bible, available exclusively in the Christian Standard Bible version, includes an introductory biography of Charles Spurgeon, more than 300 quotes from Spurgeon, 20 Spurgeon sermons, 58 extracted sermon illustrations that appear alongside associated biblical text,

study notes from Spurgeon's sermons, handwritten notes, and never-before-published works.

Nicknamed the "Prince of Preachers," Spurgeon preached to more than 10 million people during his lifetime.

"Given Spurgeon's passion for preaching the Gospel and commitment to meeting the needs of a hurting world, The Spurgeon Study Bible will inspire Christians to root themselves in the Gospel and then extend their arms out to people in need," said B&H Publishing Group publisher Trevin Wax.

"It's fitting too that Alistair Begg

would lead the editorial charge. For many years now, Alistair has demonstrated a strong commitment to biblical preaching and has sought to share Spurgeon's insights with people in our time."

Another Spurgeon resource available from B&H Publishing Group is *The Lost Sermons of C.H. Spurgeon*, a multi-volume series. The first two volumes, released in 2017, include more than 130 never-before-published sermons from Spurgeon's earliest years in ministry dating back to his teenage years, along with full-color facsimiles of his notes and extensive editorial notes by Spurgeon scholar Christian T. George, a historical theology professor at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

The
Spurgeon
Study Bible

CHRISTIAN
STANDARD
BIBLE



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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

December 7, 2017

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

IT'S 2018!



Time to apply for scholarships with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation!

Get more details and complete the application before May 31st!

Call us at 601.292.3210 or visit www.msbf.org for more info.



Small Church Youth Ministry Workshops

6:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. | Supper is served at 6:00 p.m.

January 18, 2018
Poplar Springs Baptist Church
Mendenhall, MS

February 8, 2018
Carrollton Baptist Church
Carrollton, MS

February 15, 2018
First Baptist Church
Baldwyn, MS

February 22, 2018
LaBelle Haven Baptist Church
Olive Branch, MS

March 1, 2018
First Baptist Church
Waynesboro, MS

For questions, contact Discipleship & Family Ministry at
601-292-3284 or visit
www.tinyurl.com/2018SmallChurch to register.

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Bivocational Pastors –
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Pastor/Leadership Development Department is defining "bivocational" as a man who is employed in one or more occupations apart from his paid service as pastor of a local church, where the church does not provide a salary sufficient for him to devote full-time service to the church field.

If this statement defines your current role, we would like to invite you to take our Bivocational Needs Survey at: tinyurl.com/BivoSurvey

For more information, contact Vesta Clary at
601-292-3305 or vclary@mbcb.org

2018 STATE SENIOR ADULT EVANGELISM RALLY

SHARING THE FAITH ON MY JOURNEY

January 30, 2018

Brandon Baptist Church
Brandon, MS

8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

No registration needed. For more information,
contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
at 601-292-3284 or tpresson@mbcb.org



Witnessing Through Media Awards Competition

Video (Division 1 or Division 2)

Musical Presentations | Ministry Feature | Commercial

Promotional | Worship Service

Multimedia (No Division)

Website | Graphic Design | Audio

Best First Time Entry

Farrell Blankenship Award of Excellence

Entries must be submitted no later than January 19, 2018.
Contact Communication Services at irichardson@mbcb.org for more info.



For more information about the event, please contact the
Evangelism Department at 601-292-3278 or lburriss@mbcb.org

"Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might."
Ephesians 6:10 (ASV)

War . . . Fair?

Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Conference

March 19-20, 2018

Garyawa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton

Registration details coming in January.
Sponsored by the Pastor Leadership Development Department.



2017 Youth Evangelism Challenge

SHARING JESUS!

December 27-28 @ Mississippi College

Call the Evangelism Department at 601-292-3278 or lburriss@mbcb.org for more info.

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CHILDREN'S MISSIONS DAY™ 2018

Theme: "GO SERVE!"

Date: February 17, 2018

"Serve one another humbly
in love." Galatians 5:13

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information.

AREA 2
AREA 2
AREA 3
AREA 4
AREA 5
AREA 5
AREA 5
AREA 5

AREA 1

AREA 1
AREA 1

JANUARY 25
6:30 – 8:30 PM

FBC, Tupelo
FBC, Starkville
FBC, Jackson
Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian
Main Street BC, Hattiesburg
FBC, Summit
FBC, Pascagoula
FBC, Laurel

JANUARY 26
6:30 – 8:30 PM

FBC, Senatobia

JANUARY 27
9:30 AM – NOON

Emmanuel BC, Grenada
North Greenwood BC, Greenwood
For more info, contact Wyndy South at
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June 16-30, 2018

Southwest Mississippi
Community College
Summit, MS

6th – 12th Graders

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Pray this day for...

December 8, 2017 - January 4, 2018

"praying at all times in the Spirit...To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Cynthia Hodgins**, missionary ministering to Deaf Peoples through church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffrey & Liessa Holleman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Daniel & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African & Middle Eastern Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard Jones**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hatchcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert Mooney**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Eugenia Putman**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Susan Jones**, missionary ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples/Mexico/Peru through regional office support & church planting.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Allard**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through general evangelism & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through general evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.



Miss Alessia V. Worthy
2/2/07

Parents: Charlie & Shannon
European Peoples

Mr. Haddon Bledsoe
2/16/01

Parents: David & Laurie
American Peoples

Mr. Nathan Peacock
2/24/00

Parents: Kevin & Brenda
European Peoples

China
Restricted

To Be Sent January 20, 2018, by the WMU Office

PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING: Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending Birthday cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is passed two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!

NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

FOR SECURITY: cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205. Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

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DOCKERY BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED ON HWY 8 BETWEEN CLEVELAND AND RULEVILLE, MISSISSIPPI IS SEARCHING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL OR SEMI-RETIRED PASTOR. Please contact Larry Jefcoat at 662-347-3600 or send resume to PO Box 370, Cleveland, MS 38732.

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TRADITIONAL, FUNDAMENTAL SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED IN THE EPICENTER OF THE NORTH DAKOTA BAKKEN OIL ACTIVITY AND THE CUTTING EDGE OF PIONEER MISSIONS, SEEKS PASTOR. Requirements: Southern Baptist education, family man, evangelistic veteran/seasoned Pastor; not reform Calvinist. Send resume and references to: Pulpit Committee Chairman, First Baptist Church of Watford City, PO Box 723 Arengard, ND 58833.

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Church security: 'Foreseeable crimes' must be addressed

THIRD IN A SEVEN-PART SERIES

By Chester L. Quarles
(1944-2013)
Correspondent

Walk around your church. Stand at each entryway and look closely in every direction. Think like a thief or a criminal. Are you surrounded by subdivisions, or is your church located within a business community? No matter your site, you should look for burglar bars, steel doors, burglar alarm signs, and indications of intense police or private security activity. Do the same walk-about at night.

Individual victims may be significantly harmed in any crime. When the crime occurs at church, however, the danger is that the fellowship may be harmed along with attendance. Folks won't worship at sites they are afraid to visit.

There is also a strong liability issue. When a civil suit results

from a harm at your site, the usual claim is that the church "did not exercise ordinary care." If your church is in an inner-city crime hot zone, or any crime-intensive venue, there is also the issue of "foreseeability," another legal term implying that you did not attempt to prevent criminal activity.

The phrases, due diligence and due care, are also frequently heralded in litigation. Failure to respond to assessed risks appropriately may well be considered negligence. The Scriptures also address this issue: "A prudent man foresees evil and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it." (Proverbs 22:3 NIV)

Many observers believe that a determined adversary can overcome almost any security effort, but this isn't true! If a determined adversary could defeat any security system, we would not be able to keep an American

president in office, our national treasury would be continually pilfered, and our personal bank accounts wouldn't be safe.

In the late 80's, skyjackings occurred at the rate of two or three each month. Today these attacks are rarely heard of. Effective security was emplaced! The security practices used to protect airlines, our financial institutions, and our governing bodies can be used to protect houses of worship.

A purse left in an unoccupied Bible-study class is a soft target. That same purse sitting on the pew between a wife and her husband is much more secure and is a hardened target. Target hardening also involves locks, lights, security doors, fences, alarms, and closed circuit television units.

For a church, the primary form of target hardening is called access control. If guardians, whether they be church members, greeters, or private security officers, can limit access to your parking lots and then to your sanctuary, you will have established the first and second tier or layer of security protocols.

While you can depend on the police to assist you with risk assessment and crime prevention advice, you should understand that the police will investigate your crime after it has occurred and rarely are they able to prevent church crimes. At a spree shooting in Illinois, police responded in 90 seconds, but there were already seven dead worshippers and 11 more injured.

Philip Purpura wrote, "The police response is primarily reactive and departments are under great pressure to solve crimes. As a result, the proactive efforts that would reduce risks at houses of worship are rarely in place (Purpura, Securing Houses of Worship: A Community Service Manual, 1999, 10).

The belief is naïve that the local police department's responsibility is to protect the individual, the home, or the community institution. One church security specialist called this belief "toxic" faith-based secular security. Most Americans take crime avoidance precautions. We lock our homes and cars. We try not to leave valuables within easy reach of criminals, and we are vigilant.

The church, as an institution, must also be vigilant!

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RLV CB XREV, QCU ROP PCUH, NUOV?

RLV PCB NUOV XREV, E RY ABXHX

QCUY PCUH DBOXBSHPBXP; EP EX

CROV MUO PCBB PU WESW RTRELXP

PCB DOESWX.

RSPX LELB: MEFFB

Clue: W = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Revelation 1:8

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

Quarles, who died in October 2013, was professor emeritus of criminal justice and homeland security at the University of Mississippi, and co-author of the book, *Crime Prevention for Houses of Worship*. Copyright 2011. Used by permission. This series originally appeared periodically in *The Baptist Record* during 2011 and 2012.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Sean A. Milner, Executive Director
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(601) 922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

NOVEMBER 1-15

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NOVEMBER 16-30

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Merry CHRISTMAS

& HAPPY NEW YEAR

from all of us at
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AND PEACE IN BELIEVING,
SO THAT BY THE POWER OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MAY
ABOUND IN HOPE.

ROMANS 15:13 ESV

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

Misguided Worship • Acts 14:8-20

I hope as we travel through the book of Acts we will not only see it as history but also as a training manual for the church. We know what the disciples did in the book of Acts worked, so we do not need to reinvent the wheel. The struggles they had and conquered can serve as encouragement to us when faced with similar situations.

There are major lessons to be learned from this book, the first, we learned last week: Any endeavor we make for the kingdom must be led by the Holy Spirit. This is important, because there is an enemy who will try to stop or at least discourage us at every point.

As Paul and Barnabas continued on their journey of spreading the gospel, Acts 14 illustrates 3 ways the disciples could have felt defeated and tempted to quit had they not been led by the Spirit.

The first distraction was division among those who heard and believed in Iconium where the leaders "stirred up and poisoned the minds" against the brothers. (verse 2) Personally I would have quit, but what was the response of the disciples? Verse 3 says, "So, they stayed there a long time and spoke boldly for the Lord...[who] enabled them to do signs and wonders." The enemy caused division among the church thinking this would halt the

preaching, yet the Spirit enabled the disciples to boldly speak truth. When we are faced with division, we can call upon the Holy Spirit's power to help us. Paul and Barnabas eventually left Iconium and traveled to Lystra and continued to preach. When we rely on the Holy Spirit, division will not deter the message.

Since causing division did not work, the next plot was using pride. The Holy Spirit had enabled the disciples to heal a lame man in Lystra and upon seeing this miracle, the people began to worship the dis-

ciples, even bowing to them. Had the disciples not been keenly aware of the Spirit's leading, they might have fallen for this tactic and relished in this tribute. Instead they remained true, giving all glory to God. We must be aware how easy it is to praise a pastor or leader when good things happen in our congregation. However, we must be acutely aware that God alone should receive honor and glory for accomplishments in the church.

When the disciples refused the accolades, and stated that only through the one true God were these things done, the people turned against them. They along with Jews from Iconium and Antioch intensified the dissension which led to the 3rd tactic of the enemy: The threat of death!

Surely the threat of death would end the menace of Christianity, but satan is a slow learner. If killing Jesus didn't work then neither would death threats stop the spread of the Gospel. Although Paul was stoned and left for dead, he got up, went

back into the town, and left the next day for Derbe, where he preached even more boldly and made many disciples (vs.21) Paul and Barnabas then did the unthinkable; they returned to the very towns where they were threatened in order to strengthen the followers and to appoint leaders who would continue the work.

Acts 14:22 (CSB) reads, "...strengthening the disciples by encouraging them to continue in the faith and by

telling them, 'It is necessary to go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.' " It is here that Paul gives us the second great lesson in building the kingdom: If we are to spread the gospel we must be ready to suffer for the gospel. Jesus said much the same thing when He said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23 (ESV)

Following Jesus, and doing His work here on earth requires more than just desire or obligation. It requires the leading and empowering of the Spirit of God and an enduring in hardships. What we see as the church was birthed, was an amazing power to accomplish great things for the kingdom. Neither division, pride, nor threat of death stifled the disciples. Paul and Barnabas were sent out by the Holy Spirit, they did what God said, and the kingdom grew among the Gentiles. We have access to that very same power in the church today if only we would take advantage of it. We have no excuse from continuing the work they began.

Grace is a Bible teacher and conference speaker and is a member of First Church, Clinton.

Jesus Teaches • Mark 4:1-9

Our nation is one fascinated with super heroes. Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, and Spiderman are huge franchises and always popular movie choices. Has it crossed your mind the number of super heroes you may know? In fact, you may be one yourself. The heroes I am referring to are school teachers. Underpaid and underappreciated, not all heroes wear capes or masks. There is a good chance if you are reading this commentary, you are either a teacher or discussion leader in your church. School teachers have the only job in the world in which I am jealous. They shape minds and worldviews in a magnitude few others can. I have several teachers in the church I pastor. I like being around teachers and picking their brain. I am always eager to know how people learn and the latest teaching methods.

No matter your ministry or profession, you had to be taught certain skills to succeed. Everyone is the beneficiary of teachers. Teaching makes all jobs or tasks possible. Some of the best advice I received while in college was a professor who stated, "Always be green! If you are green, you are growing!" We all have much to learn and should be eager to do so. One of the more amusing things to witness is a child in el-

ementary school helping someone 50 or more years their senior learn how to use a smart phone, tablet, or other electronic device.

Of all the many attributes of Christ, one that does not receive the attention it should is Christ's ability as a teacher. It should come as no surprise Christ is the greatest teacher of all time. He is, in fact, Truth. There are a countless number of teachers that have literally changed my life, but none like Jesus. We find in Mark 4:1-9, the crowds were beginning

Bible Studies for Life
with Bobby McKay

to swell to hear what He was going to say. One of the preferred methods Jesus used when teaching was the telling of parables. The word "parable" is compound word from the Greek, best defined as "something laid alongside of something else for the purpose of comparison to glean a meaning."

I imagine if you took the time to think about your favorite preacher, one of the characteristics that makes

him memorable was his ability to relate Scripture to life and application. The late Frank Pollard of FBC Jackson was one of the true geniuses at doing this. He could paint a picture with his words that made you think were sitting inside the story no matter if it were set in Texas or California.

As He often did, Jesus chose to use an agricultural theme to illustrate His message. He compared four different types of soil to show how the reception of the seed is essential in the production of the

crop. The differing soils could be labeled as: rejected (4:4), rocky (4:5,6), and restricted (4:7). The rejected seed represents those with hard hearts and refuse to allow the truths of the gospel to penetrate and are the epitome of pride. The rocky soil takes the seed and may even show promise, but when the early signs of adversity come, they will dissipate and are no good to anyone. The restricted soil is a frustrating

tale of what might have been. People represented in this group hear the word being taught but rather pursue the world (see Mark 4:19). Now here is the troubling reality for you and me: all three of the different types of "soils" are sitting in our churches every Sunday. Some are even in leadership and teach others, and all three types are lost.

Thankfully, there is a fourth soil. The receptive soil in 4:8. The yield of the crop in the parable was unlike anything the original audience could have imagined. The question is obvious: which "soil" are you? The problem with the produce is never the message of Christ. The gospel is true, and a response is required. Even though winter is a couple of weeks away, and the literal ground may be hard, think about the conductiveness of your heart. Is your heart in such a favorable state it is quick to receive the words of Christ and respond in a positive way? Please ask God to show you what condition your heart is in. Demonstrate humility and ask Jesus to touch and soften the hard spots in your heart.

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.

DUNBAR

cont. from p. 1

I was anticipating might come late spring is already upon us."

Dilbeck said he had talked to Platt and Dunbar, noting, "As you would expect, both were very kind and gracious. I so appreciate Dr. Dunbar and have every confi-

dence in his capacity to carry on as chairman.

"It has been my pleasure to serve with each one of you... Know that I will be doing all I can to continue and even

increase support for the IMB coming from Oklahoma Baptists," Dilbeck wrote.

Tim Simpson, pastor of Greenridge Church in Clarksburg, Md., will move from the

role of second vice chair to first vice chair of the trustees, while Lisa Lovell, a member of First Church in Fayetteville, Ar., will continue to serve as recording secretary.

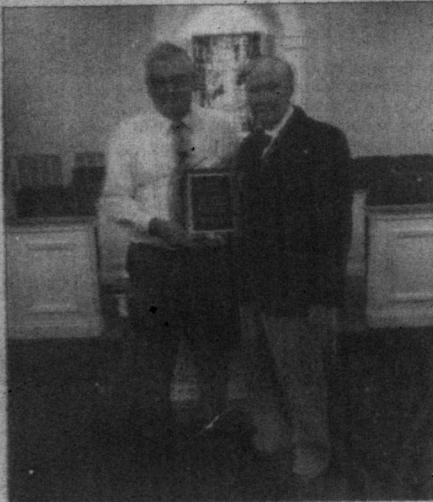
Just for the Record



BASSFIELD CHURCH, BASSFIELD, ordained Scott Courtney as deacon Nov. 12. Shown are Ken Roberts, and Hunter, Trevor, Joy, and Scott Courtney.



WEST HEIGHTS CHURCH, PONTOTOC, recognized Sunday School perfect attendance Oct. 8. Josh Tutor has 28 years of perfect attendance.



UNITY CHURCH, WEST, honored Cecil Oakes for his many years of service to the church and community in a surprise service Nov. 19. The entire service was dedicated to him. Danny Townsend presented Oakes with an appreciation plaque.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 38205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

In other Church

News:

► **Flowood Church, Flowood**, is presenting a live Nativity scene Dec. 8 - 9 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Free.

► **Antioch Church, Union**, will present A Christmas Journey Dec. 9 and Dec. 10, 7 p.m. For more information, call (601) 986-8771.

► **Salem Church, Lake**, will present The Browders in concert Dec. 10, 6 p.m. For more information call (601) 775-8272.



Beth Sigrest, who along with her husband R.L. are music leaders at **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, is shown with her puppet friend Frannie. They minister to the children at the once-a-month children's sermon.

College News

► Mississippi College School of Business is offering a new master of accountancy degree beginning in 2018. The program will be the first 100% online masters in accountancy in the state of Mississippi. The 30-hour program will include 24 hours of required accounting classes and six others in general graduate electives. For more information, contact professor Billy Morehead at (601) 925-7742.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.